

Remarks

Claims 1, 19, and 57 have been amended, new claims 62-75 have been added, claims 58-61 are allowable, and claims 10-18 and 25-28 stand objected to as being dependent upon a claim that has not been allowed. Support for the amendment to the claims and the new claims can be found in general throughout Applicants' Specification and in particular, for example, as follows: claims 1, 19, and 57, Figures 1, 5, 8 and 12, claims 62-75, original claims 36, 38-41, 45-49, 55 and 56, page 7, lines 5-11, and page 9, lines 9-11. No new matter has been added.

Previously pending claims 1-9, 19-24, 29-31, 35, and 57 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 over Jonkers (U.S. 4,299,164) in view of Jaffa et al. (U.S. 5,501,147).

Jonkers discloses a squeegee for pressing a dyepaste through a sieve (e.g., a stencil) of a printing machine and onto a web or sheet. See, Jonkers, col. 1, line 5-6.

Jaffa et al. disclose an apparatus for conveying a printed sheet from one conveyor to another. See, Jaffa et al., col. 1, lines 6-8.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an apparatus for coating an article, the apparatus including an applicator that includes a convex exterior surface, a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to the applicator, and a metering bar that includes a fixed arcuate end positioned against the convex exterior surface of the applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to the convex exterior surface of the applicator for transfer from the convex exterior surface of the applicator to an article transported to the applicator by the conveyor, the metering bar forming a nip with the convex exterior surface of the applicator and exerting a force against the applicator, the predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by the force of the metering bar and a hydraulic force present at the nip. Neither Jonkers nor Jaffa et al. teach or suggest a metering bar that includes a fixed arcuate end positioned against the convex exterior surface of an applicator. The proposed combination of Jonkers and Jaffa et al. thus lacks a required element of claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Jonkers in view of Jaffa et al. has been overcome and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9, 19-24, 29-31, 35, and 57 are distinguishable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Jonkers in view of Jaffa et al. for at least the same reasons set forth above in distinguishing claim 1.

Previously pending claims 32-34 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Jonkers and Jaffa et al. and further in view of Kirk Othmer.

The discussion of Jonkers set forth above is incorporated herein.

The discussion of Jaffa et al. set forth above is incorporated herein.

Kirk-Othmer describes various radiation sources and discusses radiation curing. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 19 render moot the rejection of claims 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Jonkers in view of Jaffa et al. and further in view of Kirk Othmer and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

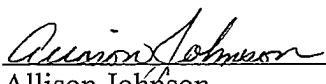
The claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should a teleconference interview facilitate prosecution of this application.

Applicants have previously paid for 5 independent claims and 57 total claims. Therefore, Applicants are of the belief that no fees for additional claims are required.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment made to Deposit Account No. 501,171.

Respectfully submitted,

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